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SAGINAW AND BAY CITY NEWS

# Michigan prison inmates refuse to return to cells for several hours after assault

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Saginaw Correctional Facility in Tittabawassee Township.

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TITTABAWASSEE TWP, MI — An altercation involving inmates at a state prison in Saginaw County led to a dozen or so prisoners refusing to return to their cells for several hours.

The incident began the afternoon of Monday, Dec. 21, at the Saginaw Correctional Facility when a prisoner assaulted another inmate

inside a housing unit, said Chris Gautz, spokesman for the Michigan Department of Corrections. Gautz did not elaborate on what sparked the assault.

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“The instigator in the initial assault led several other prisoners to assault a handful of other prisoners and then encouraged the rest of the prisoners out of their cells to disobey staff commands to return to their cells,” Gautz said.

About 25 to 30 inmates were out of their cells in the unit. Twelve to 15 of the inmates were causing the issue, Gautz said.

The initial assaults happened within minutes of each other. A little less than three hours later, the 12 to 15 prisoners involved agreed to return to be locked up again, Gautz said.

No outside law enforcement agencies were called in to assist with the incident, Gautz said.

One prisoner suffered an injury requiring hospitalization. Gautz was unaware of any MDOC employees being injured.

“The staff did an outstanding job handling this incident, providing care to prisoners who were assaulted and, through dialogue, were able to ensure every prisoner eventually went back into their cell,” Gautz added.

The prison located at 9625 Pierce Road in Tittabawassee Township is composed of 11 buildings and opened in 1993.

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MDOC personnel are investigating the incident, Gautz said.

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